

Montana Common Core Standards

Fact Sheet

Montana is about to join 46 other states that have adopted the Common Core State Standards in education. These standards were developed through a state-led initiative sponsored by the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) and the National Governor's Association (NGA). The process involved teachers, principals, parents, and education experts using the best education practices of the United States and other countries.

Montana educators came together to examine the Common Core State Standards. They determined that the standards emphasize what students should know and be able to accomplish at every grade level and prepare students to be college and career ready upon graduation from high school. In addition, Montana's Common Core Standards reflect the state's values and priorities and include Indian Education for All content.

GETTING Every Montana Student College and Career READY

Why Montana Common Core Standards are good for students:

- Students moving from different communities or states will have a smoother transition because the learning goals remain consistent.
- Students will clearly understand what is expected of them as they progress through school.
- Students will be prepared with the knowledge and skills to succeed in college and careers.

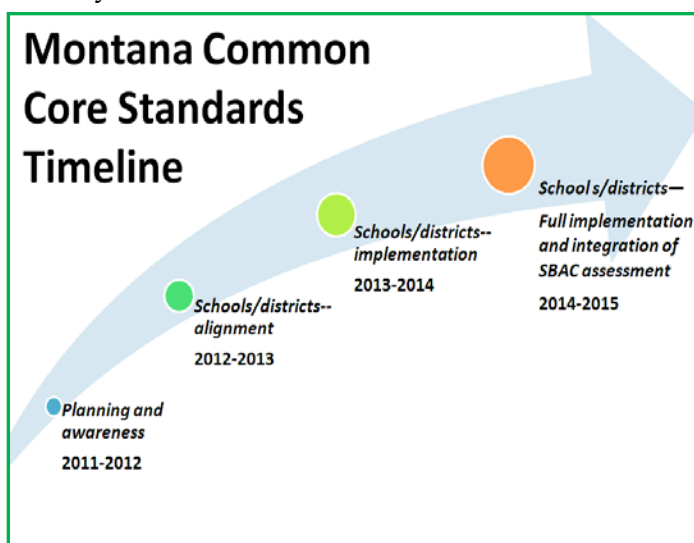
How educators will use the Montana Common Core Standards:

- Educators will be able to focus on greater depths of understanding in each unit of study.
- Educators will have clear goals for student learning and achievement in Mathematics and English Language Arts and Literacy in each grade.
- Educators will have access to a balanced assessment system.

What parents can expect:

- Parents will understand what students need to know at each step in their education.
- Parents will be able to have more focused and clear communication with teachers about their student's academic progress.
- Parents will be assured that Montana students have access to the same high-quality education other students receive throughout the United States.

Montana Common Core Standards Timeline



Montana
Office of Public Instruction
Denise Juneau, State Superintendent

opi.mt.gov

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Measuring Student Achievement


To help achieve the goal that all students leave high school ready for college and career, Montana joined the SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC), a 30-state organization charged with developing an assessment system for the Common Core State Standards.


The SMARTER system will:


- Align with the proposed Montana Common Core Standards;
- Focus on support for teachers through professional development and instructional materials;
- Provide a comprehensive reporting system for teachers, administrators, students and parents;
- Ensure that all students, regardless of disability, language, or economic status, are able to show what they know and can do; and
- Offer online formative assessment processes and tools, as well as computer adaptive online interim and summative assessments.

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Online Adaptive Assessments have the ability to adjust to individual responses, provide for students needs for accommodations such as large print, and provide accurate information for teachers, parents, and students.

 **Formative Assessment Processes** take place during a segment of learning in the classroom to determine a student's learning needs, check for understanding and/or to provide evidence of progress toward learning goals.

 **Interim Assessments** are optional and take place after a particular segment of learning such as a chapter or unit of study.

 **Beginning 2014-15** **Summative Assessments** are required, occur near the end of the school year, and the results are collected by the Office of Public Instruction. These assessments provide a snapshot of student achievement at the school, district and state levels.

MontCAS Assessment 2011-12 through 2013-14

The MontCAS will:

- ✓ Use the current standards and reporting system
- ✓ Progressively align content with the Montana Common Core Standards
- ✓ Implement test questions to align with the Montana Common Core Standards
- ✓ Provide released field test items aligned to Montana Common Core Standards

Web Links:

Common Core State Standards http://www.opi.mt.gov/Curriculum/Index.html#gpm1_7

SMARTER Balanced Assessment Constortium <http://www.k12.wa.us/smarter/>

Parent Teacher Association parent guides <http://www.pta.org/4446.htm>

Getting Ready Introduction http://www.opi.mt.gov/Curriculum?MontCAS/MontCAS_Presents.html

The Montana Office of Public Instruction provides vision, advocacy, support, and leadership for schools and communities to ensure that all students meet today's challenges and tomorrow's opportunities.